



NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

REUNION, REUNION, REUNION!

By Roger Swetland, SFA President

Are you ready for the SFA reunion? If not, remember to get your motel reservations in before the discount deadline on June 15th. Also, you may want to extend your stay into a vacation.

Let's remember the value of extended family and attend the reunion. Especially in these troubled times, we need this anchor. After all, it's much easier for us to attend these reunions now than in days gone by.

I have reunion minutes for the Swetland-Williams reunions from 1917 through 1947. These reunions were held, of all times, on Wednesdays! Between 100-125 attended, even though travel was more difficult then.

There was a George Swetland from Fresno, California who attended every year until health problems prevented it. Can you imagine driving across the USA in a Model T, when there was no transcontinental highway, to attend a family reunion on Wednesday? This man's family trips even continued through the Great Depression!

Let's make this reunion a true family reunion. The location was chosen because many Swe(e)(a)lands came from New England. Benjamin Swetland, who married Hannah Hale, lived right on the harbor, a neighbor of Joshua Hempstead.

The New London library has information on SFA forefathers and Captains Williams and James Sweetland of "The Ships James I and James II" sailed to and from this port. SFA forefathers typically lived in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts or Maine. From there they ventured on to new and better places. Let's meet at one of our forefather's beginning places. Let's meet as a true family as it was back then.



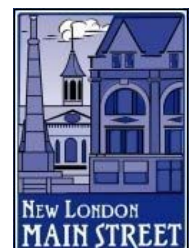
Pier at New London

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- PRESIDENT RECOUNTS TRUE DEDICATION TO REUNIONS
- REUNION AGENDA
- REGISTER FOR REUNION AND HOTEL BY JUNE 15TH (P. 5)
- MRS. YOUNG-THAYER SHARES RESEARCH
- KEEP YOUR PHOTOS SAFE

“Let's make the effort to meet at one of our forefather's beginning places.”

—Roger Swetland



SFA REUNION 2009

by Jamie Swetland

NOTE: Due date for reunion registration and hotel: JUNE 15th! Hotel won't hold SFA rooms after that. The organizers and caterers also need a firm count by then.

Make plans today to attend the SFA reunion on Friday and Saturday, the 17th and 18th of July. The location is New London, Connecticut.

You will meet and greet your near or distant relations first and foremost. Additionally, you should expect to learn more about the Swe(e)(a)tlands and other colonialists in the Connecticut area in the early days of America. Since New London was one of the first well-established seaports for trade, whaling, and privateering, and we have maritime ancestors, I plan to work in some discussions, presentations, and/or a maritime tour.

Friday, 17 July 2009		Saturday, 18 July 2009	
	Safe travels and journeys from your home location.	9:00 AM	Meet and greet in conference room (Radisson Inn – New London, CT)
	Check-in and settle-in at your accommodations.	9:15 AM	Meeting comes to order and formal introductions made.
2:30 PM	Congregate at the lobby of the Radisson Inn, New London, CT	9:30 AM	Morning discussion and presentations (Volunteers Wanted)
3:00 PM	Visit to the Public Library of New London and Presentation on Genealogical Research	10:45 AM	Presentation of scholarship award
5:00 PM	Walk by the Joshua Hempstead house. A capitalizing entrepreneur of sorts, diarist, and a neighbor to Benjamin Swetland.	11:00 PM	Luncheon served in conference room
6:00 PM	Dine together at a local establishment (\$)	12:00 PM	Business meeting & election of officers
7:30 PM	Stretch the legs after dinner for a walk through Ye Antientist Burial Ground to find Swe(e)/(a)tland headstones.	2:00 PM	Meeting adjourns and depart for possible maritime tour —details still being worked on. (?\$?)

We are working with the library to accommodate a tour of the library and a how-to presentation on extracting genealogical data from old manuscripts, records and newspapers. We plan to see the house of Benjamin Swetland's neighbor, Joshua Hempstead, plus the oldest colonial cemetery in New London Country and home of several of our ancestors, Ye Antientist Burial Ground.

The Radisson Inn in New London, CT is the site for our meeting and luncheon. If you plan to stay at the Inn, you may wish to receive our group discount.

To register, please fill out the form on page 5 and mail in no later than June 15th, following the instructions for payment to attend the reunion. We hope to see you there!

Donation Form (Please make checks out to Swetland Family Association)

My name is _____

Enclosed is my donation for the scholarship fund for _____

Postage keeps going up—the more who sign up for email Lore the better!

____ I will arrange to have the newsletter emailed by simply doing the following:

Send an e-mail to Mark Harrison at markh3326@gmail.com and ask to be placed on the S/S Lore email list.

MAIL TO:

Priscilla Swetland, Treasurer
RR #4, Box 121 A
Montrose, PA 18801-9437

SFA Treasurer's Report as of May 2009

Balance as of May 3, 2008 \$1,456.90

Donations:

\$145 for Scholarship Fund

\$10 for General Fund

Expenses for Lore Newsletter:

\$146.24

Scholarship Fund is Now: \$720

General Fund is Now: \$745.66

Balance as of May 1, 2009 \$1,465.66

This report does not include the \$300 paid to the Radisson Hotel for the 2009 Reunion or the money received for reunion reservations.

I am trying to build up the Scholarship Fund, in hopes of being able to increase it. This will be discussed at the reunion.

Thanks to all who have signed up to receive the Lore by email, as it has saved us a lot of money in expenses.

Submitted by Priscilla J. Swetland, Treasurer



View This Newsletter,
Past Issues and more
at the SFA Website:
www.swetland.org

S/S Family Organization**President & Reunion Chair:**

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**A Call for Newsletter Articles
and Photos**

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Judith L. Young-Thayer at
her Computer in Virginia

Descendent of Samuel Sweetland's Daughter Clarissa Shares Research

Many readers may be related to Judith L. Young-Thayer, who researches her genealogy and documents her findings with primary sources. By listing and keeping copies of sources for each ancestor, Judy avoids errors and can confidently locate and share her findings with others. In addition to listing names, dates and places, Judy includes early writings

and records of her ancestors. Her Sweetland/Swetland lineage begins with her third great-grandmother, Clarissa, and moves back in time four more generations to William Swetland.

Clarissa [Swetland], b. 1786 and Ezra Spier

Samuel Swetland, b. 1758 and Nancy [Garnsey], b. 1762

Ebenezer Swetland, b. 1720 and Sarah [Leach], b. 1728

John Swetland, b. 1681 and Sarah [Davis], then 2/md Sarah [Bond]

William Swetland, b. 1650 and Agnes [?], b. <1650>

(Continued on p. 4)

Judy's first Sweetland ancestor, Clarissa's Sweetland, had a brother, Samuel Jr., who died at the age of 47 in 1836. His daughter, Amelia Garnsey Swetland Peters, wrote a long poem at his death, including the following stanzas:



My mourning friends lift up your heads, and seek him not among the dead.
His immortal soul has took its flight, into the blissful realms of light.
He lives he breaths celestial air; it is a healthful Clime for God is there.

Judith notes, "From the histories, it is known that there were several epidemics of typhoid and cholera which 'carried off' many of the young Swetland and Garnsey adults of this generation." She obtained many family names, births, marriages and deaths from an old framed scroll which was kept and signed by Elmina Swetland in 1835.

Clarissa's grandfather, Ebenezer Swetland, enlisted as a soldier on 2 Sep. 1755, as shown on Indian War Rolls 1755-1757, ConnHistcoll's, V. 1 NE Historical and Genealogical Society, Boston. He was "Sgt. of Coventry, left sick at Lake George." The town of Granville, N.Y. Assessment Rolls show Ebenezer's "house and farm value: 499.50 cents, value personal estate: \$107, tax: 60 cents."

Ebenezer was one of twelve children born to John Swetland. When Ebenezer was nine years old, his younger brother, Luke was born in Columbia, CT. Luke, known as "the Seneca Captive," died 30 Jan. 1823, with older brother Ebenezer dying earlier, in 1805.

The two brothers' grandfather (John's father), William Swetland, may have been born in England or Sweden and he lived in Salem and Beverly, MA by 1661. The only record of his wife Agnes appears in Salem's vital records: "Mr. William Sweetland, his son, Peter by Agnes his wife bourne the 1st 7mo 1676 (Sept); their dau Grace, b. 8 Mar 1679/80, Jno [John] Sweetland, b. 1st 7th mo '81: ye son Joseph, b. 5th 11 mo 1683." William and Agnes previously had a daughter Agnes, b. abt. 1672, baptized 7 July 1695, according to Beverly, MA Town Christening Records. After the three children mentioned above were born in Salem, the couple had three more children, Joseph, Benjamin and Sarah, for a total of seven children.

Readers who would like additional information on the families in this article may contact the researcher and contributor directly: Judith L. Young-Thayer/311 Willow Oaks Blvd./Hampton, VA 23669-1531, e-mail: JLYThayer@aol.com. Better yet, you can meet Judy at the reunion!

Keep Those Photos Safe!



Have you scanned old photos? Do you take digital photos? Either way, you will want to ensure that they are never lost. Mark Harrison sent in the following suggestions:

- ◆ Print hard copies of your favorite digital photos on archival grade paper.
- ◆ Create a backup. Copy on a USB drive, CD, DVD; **store at off-site location.**



Sweetland/Swetland Family Association 2009 Reunion Registration Form

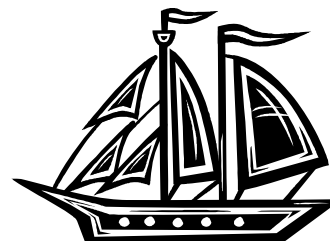
Payment must be received no later than June 15th

My payment of \$26.00 per person for the luncheon and meeting is included, made payable to Sweetland Family Association.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



Total People Attending: _____ X \$26.00 = Total Money Sending in:

\$ _____

My name and the names of the other people attending with me are listed below.

* Please print clearly the names(s) as you would like them to appear on name tags.

Additional Information to help us size our Reunion needs.

1. I/We would like to take photos at the reunion and share with the SFA for publication on the website and/or newsletters and/or memory albums.

Yes/No _____ Digital/Film _____

2. I/We will arrive on Friday in time to go to the events. Yes /
No _____

3. I/We will be attending the Friday night meal and gathering.

Yes/No _____ Number Attending: _____

4. I/We will be interested in a guided maritime tour Saturday afternoon.

Yes/No _____ Number Attending: _____

5. I/We would like to be on the agenda to speak on Swe(e)/(a)tland ancestors or topics.

Yes/No _____ Person Presenting: _____

Person(s) or topic you will be speaking about? _____

Please return form with appropriate payment to:
Priscilla Swetland Phone: 570-934-2187
RR #4 Box 121A (May to Nov.)
Montrose, PA 18801-9437
E-mail: rpswetland@epix.net

* A reunion map will be mailed to the person who fills out and sends in the form.

* Please note that the money you are sending in covers Saturday's lunch ONLY.

* You will be responsible for your supper on Friday night and IF we decide to attend a guided tour, then that may be an additional cost.